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PAPERS.
Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
The Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.
The People's Paper, Raleigh, N. C.
The Populist, Raleigh, N. C.
The People's Paper, Raleigh, N. C.
The Vestibule, Raleigh, N. C.
The Low-Boy, Raleigh, N. C.
The Rollin Watchman, Raleigh, N. C.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to do so will be dropped from the list promptly. Our office can now see what papers are desired in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

The rotation of crops is a much more important matter than is usually thought. It is the way to keep up the fertility.

We may be pardoned for once more suggesting that if you feed dry food all winter, you will have sick animals in the spring.

Constitutional defects of body or disease in a flock of ewes can easily be detected by using a buck that shows length where the other is weak.

There is a difference of opinion as to whether a persistent milker should be put at work right along. The preponderance of opinion, however, is that a cow is better for from six to eight weeks' rest.

A good, cool, well-ventilated milk house is one of the essentials of successful dairying. Such a house may be made of wood, stone or brick, and if properly constructed the kind of material is not essential.

Money spent to make a cement cellar is well invested. Put in four to six inches of sand, wet down thoroughly and for several days. Then mix with broken stone with cement and on three inches thick. Then cover with cement mixed with sand.

A summary of Department of Agriculture estimates gives the acreage and production in the United States for 1895 of wheat 33,944,850 acres and 231,000 bushels, and of corn 81,990,000 acres and 2,161,357,000 bushels. In 1894 there were 1,212,770,052 bushels of wheat.

It is somewhat singular that so little has been said, heretofore, about the use of lime to neutralize the sourness of upland soils. Probably many chemists, as well as farmers, have fallen into a general belief that sour soils are made more or less slow and damp. German and French chemists have recognized the value of lime on well drained lands that have become acid, and Prof. Hillgard in this country has apparently satisfied himself of the value. Rhode Island people, however, have been the first to demonstrate this by actual test.

CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6.

In October last Judge William Lawrence, President of the National Wool Growers' Association, and Mr. W. J. Markam, Secretary, called a meeting of the Association to assemble at the Ebbitt House, Washington, D. C., on December 4th, with a view of asking Congress that in any revenue measure which might be enacted, there should be incorporated protection duties for the wool industry. The call invited not only members of the Association, but also sheep producers and wool dealers to unite in a conference.

The National Association of Wool Growers met at the Ebbitt House on Wednesday, December 4th, 1895, and has been in session three days. Sixteen States are represented. Judge Lawrence had prepared a memorial to Congress covering the whole subject of the wool tariff, and this memorial has been for three days under discussion. The memorial has been nearly all agreed to but the rates of duty to be asked for by the wool growers have not been finally decided upon.

Another question which will come before the Association is whether the duties which the Association regards as essential as a permanent policy shall now be asked for, or whether a somewhat modified proposition shall be made to Congress as a temporary expedient. This question is not yet determined.

During the three days' session, the debates have been very animated, with some differences of opinion as to minor details, yet with a substantial concurrence of opinion as to all the propositions discussed.

The National Association of Wool Manufacturers sent to Judge Lawrence to be presented to the National Association of Wool Growers, now in session, a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, adhering to the conviction that an impartial application of the principle of protection is essential to the complete and uniform development of the industrial interests of the nation, earnestly second the appeal of the Wool Growers for a duty for wool.

The discussions have developed the fact that since the so-called McKinley Act of 1890 was passed, conditions have so changed that the duties prescribed by the Act are found to be wholly inadequate. At the time this Act was passed, it was intended to be sufficient protective, but a provision was unfortunately incorporated in the Act which was known as the "Skirting Clause" which with a light shrinkage in Australian wool has, to a large extent, defeated the purposes of the Act.

The nominal duty of 11 cents, provided by the law, is to be, in practical effect, only 6 cents per pound in Ohio and similar washed merino wools, when the law was intended to give more than double that. The discussions show that this effect of the law is not generally understood by the wool growers, and the National Association will ask for modifications of the law which will remedy this defect.

Then, too, the reduction in wool prices, since 1890, in the market of the world, have been so great as to require more effective protection than the McKinley Act would give, under conditions now existing.

At 5 o'clock this afternoon the Association adjourned, to resume the consideration of the memorial to Congress to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

President Lawrence furnished the Associated Trade and Industrial Press, on request, a copy of a letter addressed to him, which shows the effect of free wool in Colorado. It is as follows:

TRINIDAD, Col., Dec. 1, 1895.
Hon. Wm. Lawrence, President National Association Wool Growers:
SIR:—It is about two years since the wool growers of Colorado met in convention to consult on the future in this State. Congress was then in session with the avowed purpose of placing wool on the free list. The wool industry was then the seventh in magnitude of the industries of the State. We then felt that free wool would be a death blow to the business, and a financial ruin to those engaged in it.

Our fears have been fully realized. The price of our wool has been reduced from 16 cents to 6 cents per pound; the price of our mutton has been reduced from \$3 to \$1.60, and our stock ewes from \$4 to \$1.25. And to-day, were it not for the hope that the present Congress would give us some relief, our

stock of sheep would sell at 50 cents per head.

The value of our ranch property has depreciated 75 per cent. and the lands we own for sheep purposes cannot be sold for the government price, while, under the McKinley law, it was worth from \$10 to \$15 per acre.

Three years ago, the sheep and wool industry was worth \$8,000,000 in the State of Colorado; to-day with free wool, it is worth about \$3,000,000. Three years ago the plains of Colorado were covered with as many sheep as they could support; to-day a herd is seldom seen, and in a few more years, with free wool, the sheep in Colorado will be, like the buffalo, a natural curiosity.

Free wool has deprived thousands of industrious workmen of their daily labor, and rendered their ranch homes worthless. Wool growers in Colorado have but one demand of Congress, and that is protection from the foreign producers.

Give us the preference in our home market, and save a shipment of gold to pay for the foreign article.

Yours for protection,
R. H. PURINGTON,
Pres't Colorado State Wool Growers Association.

There is a very strongly proclaimed sentiment among the wool growers who are here, that no candidate for the Presidency who is non-committal on the subject of protection of the wool industry, or seek to give the wool growers inadequate protection, can ever receive their support for the nomination, or even for the election.

They declare that with them it is a death struggle for existence; that the time has come for action, and that speedily, and that they will not be content with glittering generalities, but want to know the extent of the relief which they are to have, and which candidates for the Presidency and for Congress are willing to give them.

Representative Harris, of Ohio, today introduced in the House a bill levying the duty on wools as follows:

Wool and hair of a first class, 11 cts. per pound; second class 12 cts. per pound; third class and on camel's hair of the third class, the value thereof shall be 13 cents or less per pound, including charges, the duty is to be 32 per cent. ad valorem; on wools of the third class and on camel's hair of the third class the value of which exceeds 13 cents per pound, the duty is to be 50 per cent. ad valorem.

[If the wool growers of this country will scratch their heads and think a little, they will conclude that the tariff has not had so much to do with lowering the price of wool as they claim in the above articles. Wool will never be a good price again until the financial question is settled in the right shape.—EDITOR.]

HOW TO SAVE BACON.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

For the benefit of the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER I will give a plan for a sure preventive to keep bugs from bacon. When it gets salt enough to smoke, string it ready for hanging up while it is yet damp, sprinkle all the flesh part with powdered borax, then hang it up and smoke it. Let it hang for years if you wish, and no fly nor bug will bother it.

If any brother farmer has had experience with briars that grow in the land—they grow very thick, small vines and roots very thick, have large nuts to the roots—I desire their information for destroying them through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Yours respectfully,
JOHN BROCK

Hoard says that it sounds passing strange in these days of cheap oats, cheap corn and cheap barley, and butter at a good price, to hear farmers talking about selling their grain. There are three pounds of butter in a bushel of oats or corn or barley when fed to a good butter-producing cow. Can a man sell his grain at any better price, in these times, than to turn it into butter?

THE GROWING OF ONIONS.

Would there be a possibility of my growing a good crop of onions on newly cleared land, with everything taken out and well plowed and worked? I want to grow a good crop. I have nothing but commercial fertilizers to use. My land is light and high, a good sandy loam. How much fertilizer can I use and not burn the crop? Is the "Prizetaker" the best for me to plant and market under the "New Onion Culture"? What time are they ready

to market set out February 1st.—A. F. C. Chadbourne, N. C.

[Answered by W. F. Massey, Horticulturist, N. C. Experiment Station.]

You can doubtless grow a fair crop of onions on your land, by liberal fertilization, and by repeating the heavy fertilization, you can grow larger crops on the same land annually for a number of years. It takes several years fertilization and culture to get the maximum crop of onions on a piece of land that has never grown that crop. I should use fully a ton per acre of a high grade fertilizer, and I would not buy any particular brand of mixed fertilizer, but would mix my own, for there is no brand that I am acquainted with which has as large a percentage of potash as the onion crop and your soil need. In bulletin 112, on Trucking in the South, you will find some formulas for home mixing of fertilizers. If you wish to grow green onions for bunching to ship in March, you should use sets of the Early Pearl or the White Potato onion, and plant them in October. The bulletin referred to will give you full directions. For a ripe crop for the home market or for early shipment ripe, you can use the Prizetaker, and start the plants under glass in January, or if you want a crop that can be kept then sown in February, of the White Southport Globe, or the Red Opal. The Prizetaker is the best for the "new onion culture," that is the starting of the plants early and transplanting in March, or with you in February, if well hardened off. They will be ready to ship in late June or early in July, while the onions grown from sets planted in October, will be ready to pull and bunch in March and ship with the tops on, in ventilated barrels.

The new Western States are making a solid move for the encouragement of emigration. A large convention was recently held in St. Paul in that interest and conventions are to be held in each of the several States. D. R. McGinnis, St. Paul, is the general secretary of the movement.

THOROUGH PULVERIZATION OF THE SOIL.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. PROSPERITY, N. C.

Run deep furrows, if possible 12 inches deep, by running the plow several times in a furrow. These furrows should be sufficiently far apart to prevent the dirt of one from falling over into an adjacent furrow, say 2 to 3 feet. The ground between the furrows should not be broken; the frost will do that more thoroughly than can be done by ordinary plowing. The plowing may be done any time before hard freezing sets in. The frost will crack the ground at or near the bottoms of the furrows, and extending across will lift the entire ridges. Eight inches of water will, when frozen into ice, make 9 inches. The same pertains to wet soil. Hence freezing has the effect to tear asunder, thus producing thorough pulverization.

In the spring, after the frost is out of the ground, the furrow should be filled and the ground cross plowed. It will be found very mellow and loose to the depth previously frozen.

AN ILLUSTRATION.

Some years ago, about the first of April, I was travelling with a horse and buggy in the western part of the State of New York. At a certain point there was a ditch on each side of the road about 18 inches deep. The ditches enabled the frost to lift the entire road bed. A thaw had set in and occasionally the horse would break through, making the travelling disagreeable. From the effect here you will see what can be done by means of the above.

BRYAN TYSON.

BEE CULTURE AT THE EXPERIMENT STATION.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

The Experiment Station has recently completed arrangements for carrying on some work in bee culture, both to disseminate information as to the best methods to follow in beekeeping, as well as to conduct tests to determine what plans should be adopted in North Carolina to make this particular industry as profitable as possible. In many sections of the State bee culture now yields handsome returns when carefully managed. With proper use of the improved methods of late years this result might be largely increased. It will be the purpose of the Station to endeavor to aid in the extension of the industry, and with the possible improvement of the culture where it has now found a foothold. For this purpose the cooperation of two experi-

enced beekeepers has been secured, Dr. J. W. Hunter and Mr. W. H. Hall, both of Forsyth county. It is expected that results interesting to beekeepers will be reached during the coming season. In the meantime items of timely interest will be distributed upon the various phases of the subject.

As the Station desires to enter into correspondence with every beekeeper now in North Carolina, each one is cordially requested to send his name and address to Dr. H. B. Battle, Director, Raleigh, N. C. Any items as to the stocks, hives, etc., on hand, and the success or failure heretofore met with, will be gladly received. Doubtless the correspondence will be mutually helpful.

Produce the variety that is best adapted to your climate, soil and location. Since experimenting produces new things, experiment with the different varieties and procure that variety which will do best with you. One variety may do well in one section and may be entirely worthless in some other section.

THE DAIRY.

THE SIMMENTHALER CROSS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

A chief of Jersey breeders, with a herd three hundred strong, after nearly twenty years' experience, makes the following statement:

"I have had constantly brought to my attention the fact that owing to persistent inbreeding the stamina and health of the Jerseys was on a yearly decline, and from the losses in our herd I found that if I wished to retain my dairy and furnish absolutely pure milk and butter on the lines that we have always used, to make each animal pay for the food consumed and the care given, we must do something to put new life in the Jersey cow."—Breeder's Gazette, Oct. 9, interview with Have Meyer.

This, no doubt, is an uncolored statement of facts. Mr. Have Meyer evidently has been bound to succeed with his Jerseys. He has imported from their native land, he has bought from the best herds, he has bred from the best strains, he has availed himself of the best appliances and the best markets—now, without turning from his purpose, he frankly confesses that if he wishes to retain his dairy and furnish absolutely pure milk and butter (by pure he evidently means healthful—free from disease germs) he must do something to put new life in the Jersey cow.

Had this statement come from some unintelligent breeder, without means or opportunities for success, it would have little weight. Men without ability or without sufficient means are liable to fail, whatever breed they may handle. Mr. Have Meyer's failure is not from such causes. He is, no doubt, right in ascribing it to the lack of health and stamina in the Jersey cow—a lack of constitutional vigor to resist climatic influences and to ward off contagious diseases lurking in every section of our country.

This is not a matter for rejoicing by those who handle other breeds. Breeders worthy of their calling wish each other mutual success, and now they will wish Mr. Have Meyer success in his new undertaking.

He proposes to put new life in the Jerseys by crossing them with Simmenthalers, a breed from Switzerland. What are its characteristics? From a report on this breed to our State Department by Consul Mason, of Basle, Switzerland, I quote and condense: "A cow exhibited at Lucerne in 1881 attained a weight of 2,494 pounds, the average weight of thoroughbred cows being about 1,400 pounds, though many choice herds average 1,700 pounds, and cows of 1,900 and 2,000 pounds weight are not uncommon. At Roseck, the insane asylum of Canton Soleure, I have seen a herd of twenty choice cows, kept by the Cantonal government to supply the asylum with milk. From careful records kept by Superintendent Marti it appears that these cows average 21 pounds of milk daily or 7,665 pounds each during the year. This is a maximum record for an entire herd. In the Alps where the grass is savory and richest, 25 pounds of their milk yield a pound of butter; in the valleys the quantity required for the same purpose varies from 28 to 30 pounds. They grow rapidly and are mature in their fourth year. They are of enormous size, compactly and cleanly built, and their flesh is fine-grained, tender and savory."

This breed will undoubtedly be a valuable acquisition to our country,

but the wisdom of the proposed cross is questionable. It will be a violent one, especially if such enormous bulls are used.

The impression is strong that Mr. Have Meyer might have found breeds nearer home more suitable for his purpose. The Ayrshire is a beautiful animal of unquestioned health and stamina and the cow gives nearly or quite as much milk as the Simmenthaler, and it is as rich. The Red Polled, with equal stamina, is not behind in any dairy quality. And last, though not least, the Holstein-Friesian gives as rich milk and more of it.

A private letter lies before me from one of the largest breeders in California. He writes that he has largely crossed the Holstein-Friesian on other cattle. He says, "I have a half bred Jersey and Holstein, thoroughbred on both sides, which produced 662½ pounds butter last year by Babcock test."

I have advocated the crossing of breeds for several years, and have made inquiries on the subject. From what information I have been able to gain, and from my own very limited experience, I am led to the tentative conclusion that a cross of medium-weight Holstein-Friesian bulls with Jersey cows is a success. A cross thus made by me resulted in no difficulty of birth, and the produce was a large and very rich milker. I sold her to a large dairyman who has often said to me, "She was the best cow I ever owned." I cannot recommend the opposite cross—that of Jersey bulls on Holstein-Friesian cows. As breeders say, "It does not seem to be a good nick." I think our agricultural societies might confer a boon upon our dairy interests by a liberal offer of premiums for cross bred cattle.

S. HOXIE.

YORKVILLE, N. Y.

CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Too little attention has been given to this important form of enterprise in this State. It is to be hoped more interest will be taken in the near future and that the men who look into this industry will take hold of it as they do of corn and tobacco growing and make it a success.

Whoever wishes to investigate co-operative dairying can have the active help of this Station. He should procure apparatus and buildings of several dealers, among whom the following are old and reliable manufacturers of dairy supplies:

The Vermont Farm Machine Co., Bellows Falls, Vermont.
Mosely & Stoddard, Rutland, Vt.
The Creamery Manufacturing Co., Chicago, Ills.
The De Laval Separator Co., 74 Cortlandt St., New York City.
Cornish, Curtis & Green, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin.

In general every local association should build its own house, if it cannot more cheaply adapt some convenient building until it gets cows and milk enough to do a good profitable business.

It is well within bounds to assure any body of creamery promoters in North Carolina that they can start a creamery on a scale large enough to handle all the milk which can be brought to the factory, for from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

The sooner some neat little plants can be established the better, provided they can be supplied with milk with which to operate. Canvass your neighborhood and get pledges to deliver a given amount of milk daily and make it your business to correspond with what you can get pledged. Do not estimate beyond gallons delivered, and remember to caution your farmer neighbors not to count over 350 gallons of milk per cow per year, each gallon to weigh 8½ pounds.

F. E. EMERY,
"Agriculturist N. C. Exp't Station.

Now that the cultivated crops are off is a good time to level down inequalities of surface that have been made by plowing. In an old cultivated field which has been mostly plowed around, much of the best soil has been turned towards the fence. We have seen fields where the team and scraper could be better used than the plow, as that will not carry the soil to the lowest places, as may be done with the scraper. This work cannot be done while the field is in sod, and after every hoed crop opportunity should be taken to redeem the faults of previous mismanagement in plowing.

It is reported that Hilton, Hughes & Co., the largest mercantile firm in New York, have failed. They were for sound money.